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PP RUEHPA  
DE RUEHUJA #1057 1451343  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 251343Z MAY 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9645  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0347  
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ 0346  
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 6956  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 001057

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DOE FOR CAROLYN GAY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/24/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [NI](#) [ELECTIONS](#)

SUBJECT: IMAM ATTACKED BY WORSHIPPERS AT KADUNA MOSQUE

Classified By: Political Counselor Russell J. Hanks for reasons 1.4. (b & d).

¶1. (U) BBC radio reported that the Imam at the Suleiman Bello Mosque in Kaduna, one of the city's prominent mosques, was attacked and beaten by worshippers at the Friday prayers on May 18.

¶2. (C) A contact from Kaduna who was at the mosque described the incident to PolCouns as politically motivated. He claimed that during the Friday service, the Imam had made repeated comments about the "need for Nigeria to move ahead" after the recent contentious elections. As the Imam made his comments, the contact said, the gathered worshippers continuously hissed at the Imam and expressed their displeasure over the message. The incident came to a head at the end of the sermon when the Imam called on the group to "pray for Yar'adua and his incoming government." According to the contact as many as 200 worshippers, primarily middle age and older, began "thrashing" the Imam. Some in the congregation intervened and the Imam was taken to a hospital for treatment.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: While the streets of Nigeria appear quiet and there are few outward signs of tension resulting from the April events, sporadic incidents such as this one continue throughout the country. With political watchers on edge over the launching of elections tribunals and the upcoming swearing-in ceremony in Abuja, spontaneous actions can be expected to continue over the next several weeks.  
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